



# Lymphedema Treatment Act

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## POINTERS FOR MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES:

- **You will need to be brief and to the point.** You will have a finite amount of time; expect anything from 10-30 minutes.
- **Try to relax and just be yourself.** They do not expect you to be an expert. You are there to tell your story. Your personal experience is powerful and persuasive. Be direct, and make eye contact.
- **Begin with a quick (2 minute or less) explanation about lymphedema,** how it should be treated, and what happens when it is not properly treated.
- **When sharing your personal story, be sure it serves the reason you are there:** They do need to know why it is essential for patients to have compression. They do not need to know your complete medical history.
- **Focus on the medical need, and stress that coverage for compression is the most conservative and cost-effective way to manage lymphedema.** Compression is an essential component of Complete Decongestive Therapy; it reduces the incidence of disease progression, complications and disability, thereby reducing the financial burden on the health care system.
- **Do show them your affected area(s), if able.** Wear your garments, show other treatment supplies (e.g., nighttime) & show photos (e.g., before and after treatment).
- **Cost is at the forefront of every Congress members' mind.** You will likely be asked what your compression supplies cost you (or your patients/loved ones). Remember that you will be more persuasive by stressing their medical need, not how much the compression supplies cost. Explain how proper treatment can save much human suffering as well as overall health care dollars.
- **IF MEETING WITH A HOUSE OFFICE - At the beginning and again at the end of the meeting, state clearly that you came to ask the Representative to cosponsor the Lymphedema Treatment Act.** If they are unable to give you an answer then, ask when and how you should expect to hear of their decision.
- **IF MEETING WITH A SENATE OFFICE –** At the beginning and near the end of the meeting explain that we hope to have a companion Senate bill introduced soon, and state clearly that you came to ask your Senator to cosponsor that bill when it is introduced.
- **Make sure to get a business card or the contact info for the staff member(s) you meet with so that you can contact them directly for any needed follow-up.**



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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**Below are the most commonly asked questions by members of Congress and their staff. If you are asked a question that you cannot answer, suggest that they contact our bill sponsor's office.**

- **How is HR 3877 different from earlier versions of this bill?**

We have a bipartisan team of co-leads from key committees, the bill's focus is narrowed to enable coverage for compression supplies, and the title is shortened.

- **What will the law change?**

HR 3877 will amend Sec. 1861 of the Social Security Act to enable coverage for doctor-prescribed compression supplies under Durable Medical Equipment.

- **Is legislation really needed to get these items covered?**

Yes. Rep Reichert and Ways and Means Committee staff thoroughly researched this issue in direct communications with CMS (i.e., Medicare services). Rep Reichert submitted a question about the reason for non-coverage of compression supplies to the HHS Secretary, whose written response, which is quoted in our facts sheet, confirmed the need for a statutory change.

- **Does the bill have a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score?**

Not yet, but we do have a score produced by Avalere Health, which is available through our bill sponsor's office. (A "score" estimates costs to implement legislation.)

- **How will patients benefit?**

Untreated or inadequately treated lymphedema is progressive, leading to complications, comorbidities, loss of function, disability, and in some cases even death. Coverage for compression will enable patients to effectively manage this disease, thereby greatly improving their overall health and quality of life.

- **How will it affect healthcare costs?**

Whereas this bill will add cost for coverage of this time-proven, cost-effective component of treatment, it will reduce the total healthcare costs associated with this disease by decreasing the incidence of complications, co-morbidities and disabilities.

- **Is there a Senate companion bill?**

Not yet, but we hope to have the bill introduced in the Senate soon.